

provinces. In this capacity, he directly participated in negotiating the terms under which American forces would withdraw. On March 29, 1973, Colonel McCoid was the last ground force soldier outside of Saigon to leave Vietnam.

Colonel McCoid received many decorations and awards during his military career, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, five Legions of Merit, five Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. The Colonel is one of less than 300 Americans who have been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge three times. This honor is bestowed on American service men and women who have been engaged in direct combat with enemy forces.

Although these awards tell us much about the Colonel's bravery and valor, we can learn as much about his character based on an account of a decoration he would not accept. According to retired Army Colonel John Collins, Colonel McCoid refused to accept the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in Southeast Asia. Colonel McCoid declined saying that he had done much more in World War II and didn't receive the medal so he didn't see why he should receive it later in his career. Colonel McCoid made a powerful statement about honoring veterans who came before—and later—by declining to accept an award he did not believe he had earned.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Chester B. McCoid was an American hero. He answered his nation's call to service and distinguished himself at every turn. He helped to ensure the freedom of the world and to safeguard the rights we hold so dear. I extend my sympathy to his family and ask all members to join me in remembering Colonel McCoid for his extraordinary service to our country.

#### HONORING A FORMER STATE SENATOR, WILLIAM SMITH "BILL" GARNSEY

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 31, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause to remember the life of William Smith "Bill" Garnsey who sadly passed away, he was 88 years old.

Bill was born on November 5, 1911 in Billings, Montana. He moved to Greeley, Colorado with his family in 1919. Bill graduated from Yale University with letters in football and crew.

Bill was elected to the State Senate in 1967 and served until 1975. He was the chair of the Finance and Business and Labor committees. Bill was a strong supporter of the University of Northern Colorado and was instrumental to the institution when it was granted University status. In 1966, Bill received an honorary doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado for his services to that esteemed institution of higher education.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Bill Garnsey. He was dedicated to serving the people of Colorado and will be missed by all those who knew him. Bill's service will long be remembered by the people he served in Colorado.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE JACKSON

#### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 31, 2000*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Steve Jackson for his hard work and dedication which have earned him the honor of Firefighter of the Year for the City of Montclair.

Mr. Jackson was selected as Firefighter of the Year based on his dedication and perseverance in completing a very difficult paramedic certification program. The Montclair Fire Department does not currently have a paramedic program so Mr. Jackson completed his training during his personal time off using educational grant money. The certification required six months and a minimum of 1,032 hours to complete. As a member of the Montclair Fire Department's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Committee, Mr. Jackson is now trying to bring a paramedic training program to Montclair.

I commend Mr. Jackson for his desire to improve himself and be excellent in his work.

#### THE WHITE CLAY CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 31, 2000*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague JOE PITTS to introduce legislation to officially designate White Clay Creek and its tributaries as part of the National Park Service's National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This bill is the culmination of over 30 years of grassroots efforts to bring attention to the unique qualities of White Clay Creek and to build consensus to protect its beauty from the adverse consequences of urban sprawl. White Clay Creek is located in the densely populated area between Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Newark, Delaware. Eight million people live within two hours of the watershed.

White Clay Creek is worth protecting. There are 38 properties in the watershed that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the watershed is home to three endangered plant species and 100 more plant species of "special concern" to the State of Delaware. With regard to wildlife, the endangered bog turtle is found in the watershed along with 38 "rare" animal species on Delaware's list of "special concern." Because the watershed is located in the middle of the Atlantic Flyway, it is the northern boundary for many southern species of birds and the southern boundary for many northern species of birds. In total, there are about 200 bird species in the watershed, including the American Bald Eagle. White Clay Creek serves as a vital source of drinking water for New Castle County, Delaware and Chester County, Pennsylvania. Finally, White Clay Creek watershed is a popular location for fishing (particularly trout fishing), hiking, jogging, swimming, bird-watching, horseback riding, skating, sledding, cross-country skiing, photography, and limited deer hunting.

In September 1999, the National Parks Service released its final report, as ordered by Congress in the 1992 amendments to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, recommending the size and scope of the Wild and Scenic designation for White Clay Creek. The study confirmed the beliefs of the citizens living in the watershed that there was popular support for protecting the watershed's natural, historic, and recreational resources. In fact, 89% of the landowners surveyed agreed to support land use regulations and programs to conserve and protect the watershed. At the same time a majority believed that there must be room for planned residential, commercial, and industrial growth.

Therefore, a White Clay Creek Task Force of private landowners, river-related organizations, and all levels of government developed the White Clay Creek Management Plan to designate a total of 191 miles, 24 miles as scenic and 167 miles as recreational, of White Clay Creek as suitable for the National Wild and Scenic River System. All fifteen of the local governments in the watershed, including the City of Newark and New Castle County, passed resolutions supporting the management plan. The designated scenic areas flow through the White Clay Creek Preserve, the White Clay Creek State Park, and the Middle Run Natural Area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to describe exactly what it means and what it does not mean for White Clay Creek to be designated wild and scenic. This bill means that the river receives permanent protection from federally-licensed or assisted water resource projects (dams, diversions, channelization, etc.) that would have a direct and adverse effect on its free-flowing condition or outstanding remarkable resources. It does not mean that existing wastewater treatment plants or potential reservoir sites cannot be expanded to accommodate carefully planned residential, commercial, and industrial growth. New Castle County is actively seeking solutions to water shortage problems, and this bill does not limit options that are in the best interests of the citizens of Delaware. The legislation does not open private lands to public access, nor does it usually affect existing uses of private property. This legislation does not replace the authority of state, county, and municipal governments to regulate land use in the watershed. In fact, there are no federal lands within the watershed and this bill does not authorize federal funds to be used to purchase land. It simply prohibits federal funds from being used to interfere with the free-flowing nature of the river or its unique resources. In doing so, it elevates the status of the river in competing for federal preservation grants. Finally, it mobilizes the states, local governments, and communities in the watershed to work together to preserve this unique, free flowing river.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the combination of White Clay Creek watershed's unique features and the strong local support for protecting the watershed justify its designation as a wild and scenic river. I hope the House Resources Committee will make it a priority to hold hearings on this bill. I am confident the Committee will agree that federal funds should not be used to obstruct the free flow or harm the unique resources of White Clay Creek.